

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-7 and 23-26 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 20 is herein amended. No new matter has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's thorough consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on March 1, 2006, June 21, 2006, May 14, 2008, August 20, 2008 and November 12, 2008.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 has been objected to because the linking term "and/or" is considered indefinite since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. Applicant herein amends claim 20 to replace "and/or" with "or". Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful review.

Application No.: 10/570,141
Art Unit: 2885

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 062189

As to the Merits

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

Claims 8, 12, 13, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 27, & 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber et al. (USPN 6,025,897).

Claims 9, 10, 11, 15, & 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber et al. (USPN 6,025,897) in view of Albro et al. (USPN 6,403,223).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Independent claim 8

Claim 8 is drawn to at least ... *a transmittance angle dependent polarizing layer (T2) which transmits a polarized light component of one direction of polarization in normal incident light, and selectively reflects the other polarized light component and reflects obliquely incident light regardless of a direction of polarization is disposed on one surface of the sidelight type backlight light guide plate (L)*

On page 3 of the Office Action, it is alleged that Weber discloses "a transmittance angle dependent (Abstract; ". . . multiple layer reflective polarizer 12 ... reflective polarizer reflects some light into the optical cavity 24 where it is randomized and may ultimately emerge with the correct polarization to be transmitted out of the display") polarizing layer (12) which transmits a polarized light component of one direction of polarization in normal incident light (column 3,lines 25-65; ". . . ray bundle is incident on the reflective polarizer 12 which transmits light having a first polarization orientation referred to as"(a) "and effectively reflects light"), and selectively reflects the other polarized light component and reflects obliquely incident light regardless of a direction of polarization is disposed on one surface of the sidelight type backlight light guide plate (e.g., FIG 2)"

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is mischaracterizing the features of Weber. Weber fails to teach or suggest at least a transmittance angle dependent polarizing layer (T2) which reflects obliquely incident light regardless of a direction of polarization.

Specifically, a linear polarization type reflection polarizer which is a multilayer laminate is used in Weber, for example in Fig. 4. This is, however, not a transmittance angle dependent polarizing layer (T2) in the present application, and it is just a linear polarization type reflection polarizer (a2) which is one material of the transmittance angle dependent polarizing layer (T2).

For example, there is a layer (a2) in Fig. 14, a layer (a2) in Fig. 16, and a layer (a2) in Fig. 18 in this application. These layers, themselves, have no function which reflects obliquely incident light regardless of a direction of polarization. Rather, these layers transmit at least one polarized light component.

In this invention, for the purpose of preventing such a defect of the linear polarization type reflection polarizer (a2), a combined multilayer structure which reflects the one polarized light component transmitted through the linear polarization type reflection polarizer (a2) is employed. The combined multilayer structure corresponds to the transmittance angle dependent polarizing layer (T2) which reflects obliquely incident light regardless of a direction of polarization. Additionally, when using a circular polarization type reflection polarizer (a1), a retardation layer is disposed between two reflection polarizers (a1) to form the transmittance angle dependent polarizing layer (T2).

In view of foregoing, it is submitted that Weber does not disclose or suggest at least a transmittance angle dependent polarizing layer (T2) which transmits a polarized light component of one direction of polarization in normal incident light, and selectively reflects the other polarized light component and reflects obliquely incident light regardless of a direction of polarization is disposed on one surface of the sidelight type backlight light guide plate (L).

Because Weber fails to teach or suggest at least *a transmittance angle dependent polarizing layer (T2) which transmits a polarized light component of one direction of polarization in normal incident light, and selectively reflects the other polarized light component and reflects obliquely incident light regardless of a direction of polarization is disposed on one surface of the sidelight type backlight light guide plate (L)* in claim 8, Applicants submit that claims 8-22, 27 and 28 would not have been obvious over these references and, accordingly, request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Claims have been shown to be allowable over the prior art. Applicants believe that this paper is responsive to each and every ground of rejection cited in the Office Action dated November 26, 2008, and respectfully request favorable action in this application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, applicants' attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

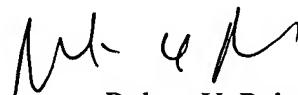
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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Robert Y. Raheja
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 59,274
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

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